

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1 through 3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The universal joint of claim 3,~~ A universal joint comprising:

a first yoke including a body portion and an overmold portion, the body portion including a base and a pair of arms that extend from the base;

a trunnion assembly coupled to the first yoke and extending between the arms; and

a second yoke coupled to the trunnion assembly;

wherein the pair of arms each include an opening formed therethrough that are aligned with one another and the overmold portion at least partially surrounds the portion of the arms that define the openings; and

wherein the overmold portion at least partially fills a groove formed in a portion of the trunnion assembly to thereby secure the portion of the trunnion assembly to the overmold portion.

5. (Currently Amended) The universal joint of ~~claim 1~~ Claim 4, wherein the base and the pair of arms of the first yoke are unitarily formed.

6. (Original) The universal joint of Claim 5, wherein the base and the pair of arms of the first yoke are unitarily formed.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The universal joint of claim 1~~ Claim 4, wherein the overmold portion is formed of a material selected from a group of materials consisting of plastics and metals.

8. (Original) The universal joint of Claim 7, wherein the overmold portion is formed of nylon.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The universal joint of claim 7;~~ A universal joint comprising:

a first yoke including a body portion and an overmold portion, the body portion including a base and a pair of arms that extend from the base;

a trunnion assembly coupled to the first yoke and extending between the arms; and

a second yoke coupled to the trunnion assembly; and

wherein the overmold portion is formed of aluminum.

10 through 18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The yoke assembly of claim 17,~~ A yoke assembly for coupling a first driveline component to a second driveline component, the yoke assembly comprising:

a first yoke having a first body portion and a first overmold portion molded thereto, the first yoke being adapted for coupling to the first driveline component;

a second yoke having a second body portion and a second overmold portion molded thereto, the second yoke being adapted for coupling to the second driveline component;
and

a trunnion assembly coupled to the first and second yokes;

wherein at least one of the first and second overmold portions is directly coupled to the trunnion assembly

wherein the first body portion includes a pair of first arms, the first arms defining a pair of aligned first openings that are configured to receive a first portion of the trunnion assembly

wherein each of the first openings is round

wherein the second body portion includes a pair of second arms, the second arms defining a pair of aligned second openings that are configured to receive a second portion of the trunnion assembly

wherein each of the second openings is round

wherein the trunnion assembly includes four bearings, each of the bearings being disposed in an associated one of the first and second openings

wherein the first overmold portion fixes a first pair of the bearings to the first arms and the second overmold portion fixes a second pair of the bearings to the second arms

wherein the first pair of bearings is partially encapsulated by a plurality of tabs formed from the first overmold portion.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~The yoke assembly of claim 17,~~ A yoke assembly for coupling a first driveline component to a second driveline component, the yoke assembly comprising:

a first yoke having a first body portion and a first overmold portion molded thereto, the first yoke being adapted for coupling to the first driveline component;

a second yoke having a second body portion and a second overmold portion molded thereto, the second yoke being adapted for coupling to the second driveline component;
and

a trunnion assembly coupled to the first and second yokes;

wherein at least one of the first and second overmold portions is directly coupled to the trunnion assembly

wherein the first body portion includes a pair of first arms, the first arms defining a pair of aligned first openings that are configured to receive a first portion of the trunnion assembly

wherein each of the first openings is round

wherein the second body portion includes a pair of second arms, the second arms defining a pair of aligned second openings that are configured to receive a second portion of the trunnion assembly

wherein each of the second openings is round

wherein the trunnion assembly includes four bearings, each of the bearings being disposed in an associated one of the first and second openings

wherein the first overmold portion fixes a first pair of the bearings to the first arms and the second overmold portion fixes a second pair of the bearings to the second arms

wherein a groove is formed in each of the first bearings, and wherein the first overmold portion at least partially fills each of the grooves.

21 through 22. (Canceled)

23. (New) A universal joint comprising:

a trunnion assembly having a first set of bearings and a second set of bearings;

a first body portion with a first base and a pair of first arms extending from opposite sides of the first base, each of the first arms including a first aperture that receives an associated one of the first set of bearings;

a second body portion with a second base and a pair of second arms extending from opposite sides of the second base, each of the second arms including a second aperture that receives an associated one of the second set of bearings; and

overmold means associated with the first and second body portions, the overmold means removably securing the first set of bearings to the first body portion, or removably securing the second set of bearings to the second body portion, or removably securing both the first set of bearings to the first body portion and the second set of bearings to the second body portion.